

cost 519*l.* 12*s.* 5*d.*, equal to 3*l.* 0*s.* 9*d.* per foot lineal, the whole court contributing 50*s.* every rate made on the division. In the greater portion of this property, the family of a deceased architect commissioner are interested; the late chairman at the time was surveyor to the property: this fact I ascertained from an inquiry into the whole circumstances of this transaction, and from a comparison with the surveyor's original report, and the alterations and erasures I discovered had been made in it, compared with the entered copy on the records of the court. For this second-size sewer down a small paved court in your parish, the rate-payers of Westminster paid 5*s.* 3*d.* per foot more than the rate-payers of the Holborn and Finsbury divisions have to pay for the 10 feet 3 inches circle-sewer, forming the main outlet of the drainage of 4,400 acres of surface.

My Lords and Gentlemen, in the representative vestry of St. George, Hanover-square, a second-class sewer has been put in in your parish in Albemarle-street; it was, according to the accounts, 687 feet 2 inches long, 17 feet 4 inches deep, and the cost 1,260*l.* 4*s.* 4*d.*, about 1*l.* 16*s.* 8*d.* per foot.

The Holborn and Finsbury commissioners put in 1,840 feet of their second-sized sewer in Collier-street, Pentonville, 17 feet deep, with two side entrances for 1,023*l.* 12*s.* 3*d.*, or 13*s.* 10*d.* per foot lineal, the excess of expense being in St. George's under the Westminster irresponsible commission of sewers, 165 per cent. per foot lineal.

In St. Martin's-in-the-Fields, in Castle-street and Henning's-row, the Westminster commission put in of their second-sized sewer 728 feet 5 inches, 14 feet 8 inches deep, the cost of which, as stated by the surveyors, was 1,105*l.* 16*s.* 5*d.*, or 1*l.* 10*s.* 4*d.* per foot lineal. The Holborn and Finsbury commissioners put in in Parkfield-street, Islington, Battle-bridge, and Holloway-road, 870 feet of their second-sized-sewer, 15 feet deep, for, including two side entrances, 596*l.* 15*s.*, or 12*s.* 2*d.* per foot lineal; the unfortunate rate-payers in St. Martin's-in-the-Fields having to pay an excess of 150 per cent. per foot.

My Lords and Gentlemen, another case in St. Paul's Covent-garden, is worthy of your notice.

An estimate having been presented of the expense of making a new sewer along Wellington-street, Wellington-street North, and Bow-street, 985 feet long first class, at a cost of 1,400*l.* 9*s.*, it was ultimately carried to do the work in July, 1844, by the votes of the commissioners.

Now, my Lords and Gentlemen, I bring this matter before you, because of the result. Instead of 985 feet of sewer being built, only 959-2 were executed, but the expense to the rate-payers was 2,012*l.* 3*s.* 5*d.*, exceeding the vote of the court above 40 per cent.; this sewer was at the depth of 24 feet, and the cost per foot was 2*l.* 1*s.* 11*d.*. Let me submit a work of the same depth of the first class in the Holborn and Finsbury commission, done in the New-road, St. Pancras, 2,750 feet of the first class; 600 of the second class, 3 side entrances, 8 junctions, 22 gullies, depth 24 feet, total 3,292*l.*, equal to 19*s.* 7*d.*; the excess in the Westminster division at the same depth being 113 per cent. per foot lineal.

Recently, in the Westminster Court of Sewers, the old form of sewer has been altered. The successful example of the Holborn and Finsbury divisions for efficiency and economy was lost sight of. The principle of the Holborn divisions as to form of sewer is the egg-shape with the narrow end downwards, whereby the smallest quantity of water passing is operative in cleansing that sewer: the shape requires a very small quantity of digging, and, when placed in the earth, forms a wedge not easily distorted by either lateral or vertical pressure.

Instead of adopting this simple, economical and efficient form, the Westminster Court of Sewers, after floundering about with various plans, adopted one which turned the reverse end of the egg downwards, put a couple of wings to the sides, which in building requires, in every foot in length, that sixteen bricks shall be cut to particular shapes, to form the figure.

The first work under this new form, and under a new contractor, Mr. Jay of London Wall (for the wedge is so far got in as to break up the forty years' monopoly), was done this present year, in the parish of St. Maryle-

bone, in Berners Street, and cost, as finally stated by the surveyors and the committee of accounts, for 1,125 feet 2 inches of second-size sewer, 16 feet 4 inches deep, 1,288*l.* 0*s.* 5*d.*, about 1*l.* 2*s.* 10*d.* per foot.

In the Holborn and Finsbury divisions, at Battle Bridge and the Holloway Road, I find 2,500 feet, viz. 300 feet of first, 2,200 feet of second class sewers, were put in 16 feet deep, including two side entrances, for 1,246*l.* 12*s.* 6*d.* equal to 9*s.* 11*d.* per foot lineal, the excess in the Westminster commission against the rate-payers of Marylebone being above 152 per cent. per foot lineal.

I will cite another comparison in a place of equal importance to Berners-street, viz. Bedford-square, where the Holborn commission put in 1,380 feet of second-size sewer, 16 feet 6 inches deep, with two side entrances, and every expense, for 921*l.* 19*s.* 2*d.*, rather less than 1*l.* 7*d.* per foot; the excess against the rate-payers under the Westminster commission, although the Holborn sewer was deeper, and the two side entrances, not in the Berners-street sewer, nearly 97 per cent.

We are not to be understood as pledging ourselves to Mr. Leslie's charges, or admitting any want of confidence in the commissioners. We insert them simply with a view to inquiry, and reserve to ourselves the right of investigating them hereafter.

Since writing the above, we have received the following communication from one who is well acquainted with the subject.

The conduct and proceedings of the Westminster Court of Sewers for some considerable time past have afforded fruitful subjects for grave and serious charges; those charges appear to amount to the following:—That the public money under this commission has been both uselessly, wantonly, and extravagantly squandered away; that it has expended scores of thousands of pounds obtained by sewers rates, in the diversion and repair of old, and in the construction of new sewers, which, after all, are now found to have been formed and put in upon improper, unscientific, and entirely erroneous principles; that had recognized scientific principles been adopted in the construction of these sewers, the cost would not have been anything like what has been paid for them, and, therefore, considerable lengths of good and efficient sewers could have been carried up at the same time and with the surplus money, in very many filthy places where none now exist; and also many of the old ones could have been repaired and highly improved; that instead of affording facilities for carrying off the sewerage, the majority of these sewers are nothing better than elongated reservoirs, being more or less filled up with accumulations of decomposing filth, which choke up the house drains instead of accelerating the discharge of the refuse from them; that these sewers are, in consequence, ill-adapted and inefficient for affording good and proper facilities for rapidly carrying away to the Thames the refuse vegetable or animal matters which are discharged into them from the various dwelling houses and premises along which they pass. It would appear, therefore, that the enormous sums of money which have been expended in the erection of these abominable constructions have been almost entirely wasted; and that the whole, or nearly the whole of them, require to be reconstructed and re-arranged. Now, if the above charges be true, and we see no reason at present to doubt them, the sooner some legislative enactment is made in order to relieve the present irresponsible and inefficient authority, and also the sooner the arrangement and construction of these sewers are based upon proper scientific principles and placed under some scientific and properly qualified board, the better. Public economy, and above all, public health, cries loudly and earnestly for some extensive and beneficial change in this important matter.

NEW CHURCH AT BYER'S GREEN, NEAR DURHAM.—A new district has lately been separated from the parish of Bishop Auckland; including the villages of Byer's-green and Newfield, and a church, in the early English style, has been erected at the expense of the Bishop of Durham. The ceremony of consecration was performed by the bishop last week.

THE ARCHITECTURE OF GENOA; ILLUSTRATED IN THE WORK OF GAUTHIER.*

THE architecture of Italy, viewed in connection with political history, would afford a large field for inquiry into the causes of that brilliant state in which the arts existed in every city of the country. Torn by civil strife, and its governments subverted by democratic insurrections, the peninsula yet contains an immense number of works of art, of which the most elaborate publications can give very partial illustration. Alike in the brightest days of a republic, in the most tyrannical government of a despotic ruler, in the subversion of a so-called republican government, and the sway of a demagogue, whose power was more absolute and pernicious than the oligarchy he succeeded, in every variety of position, amid turmoil and contention, which the rest of Europe has not known, art continued to advance, as it were in spite of these antagonistic circumstances, and to attain a position of splendour, which more consolidated government, and longer continuance of peace in other countries failed to acquire. We are not able, in this place, to do more than suggest a small amount of the matter of such an inquiry, but the work of Simonde de Sismondi,† will give many important materials in the historical part, and the architectural characteristics of the states cannot be better illustrated than in the works before us. The work of Cicognara on Venice has been previously noticed (*vide ante*, p. 326), and it will be interesting to compare that city with its rival republic, Genoa, the architecture of which is admirably illustrated by Gauthier. This author remarks, that in Italy there is no town, no village, which does not possess models of architecture, yet all differing from each other in taste, and manner of execution. Venice, Genoa, Florence, and Rome, have each edifices of singular beauty, yet having certain peculiarities. Circumstances of locality and convenience often suggested the most striking effects, and, in that day, even the irregularities of the ground could be turned to the advantage of the art. This observation is particularly applicable to the city of Genoa, whose position seems to have called forth those fine conceptions, which strike every one who approaches it. Situated on the shores of the Mediterranean, it forms a semicircle rising with the slope of the mountains, which surround it, and has a magnificent appearance. The palaces are so numerous, that one might believe, that Genoa had only princes for inhabitants, and it was this that made Madame de Staël exclaim, when she visited the place, that the grand street seemed to have been built for a congress of kings. The vestibules, the courts, the porticos, and especially the staircases, are hardly to be equalled. The terraces and gardens are laid out with remarkable skill, and no better materials, than are in this city, could be found for the study of the art of landscape gardening, and of other accessories, which the architects of Italy were well conversant with, but which those of our own country are accustomed to neglect. The arrangement of the steps at the entrance door, the grottos and fountains, are some of the points which attention may be profitably directed to. It is evident, that effects the most remarkable are often obtained by means the most ingenious, yet the most simple. Each town of Italy has its particular description of architectural beauty, and Genoa is most remarkable for the disposition of its plans. Consequently the iconographic form of illustration occupies a considerable part of the work, which will render it especially valuable to architects. It has also sections, and perspective views admirably drawn and engraved in outline. The views shew the vestibule from which the staircase ascends to the loggia, on the first floor of the open court, various other portions of the building, and the external appearance of the house and gardens. The first part of the work contains general views of the city, and plans, elevations, sections, and views of the palace, with the walls, and the second part is devoted to the villas and palaces of the environs.

* Les plus beaux édifices de la ville de Gènes, et de ses environs; recueil publié par M. P. Gauthier, Architecte du Gouvernement.—Paris, 1830-32, in two parts.
† Histoire des Républiques Italiennes du Moyen Age, par J. C. L. Simonde de Sismondi.—Paris, 1796.